

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00992 240916Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15
SP-02 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 /111 W
-----240932 024646 /15

R 240849Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1083
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 0992

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV EWWT IMCO PLOS MO
SUBJECT: GOM POSITION ON ACCEPTANCE OF 1969 AMENDMENTS TO 1954
CONVENTION FOR PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF SEA BY OIL

REF: (A) STATE 006120; (B) RABAT 326; (C) STATE 015723;
(D) STATE 015724

1. DURING FEBRUARY 18 CALL ON MFA TREATY DIVISION CHIEF
MUSTAPHA GHARBI, EMBOFF REFERRED TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS REPORTED
REFTEL B. EMBOFF CONVEYED DEPARTMENT'S OPINION (REF D) THAT
THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE 1969 AMENDMENTS AND BARCELONA
CONVENTION.

2. GHARBI BACKTRACKED SOMEWHAT ON THESIS THAT THERE WAS ANY
CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO CONVENTIONS BUT STATED THAT THE GOM'S
REAL PROBLEM WITH ALL THE TREATIES, INCLUDING THE 1973
CONVENTION, WAS THAT ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS FOR AGGRIEVED
STATES WERE EITHER NON-EXISTENT OR INADEQUATE IN THE ABSENCE
OF A LAW OF THE SEA TREATY. EXISTING INSURANCE COVERAGES
WERE ALSO INADEQUATE. WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS A FUND ESTABLISHED
BY CONTRACTING STATES FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DAMAGES. GHARBI
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AGAIN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD EVENTUALLY
BECOME A PARTY TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND EMBOFF
RESPONDED PER REFTEL D.

3. GHARBI NOTED THE GROUNDING OF A LIBERIAN TANKER OFF
MOROCCO'S SOUTHERN COAST RECENTLY, SAYING THAT ONLY THE FACT
THAT THE TANKER HAD BEEN EMPTY HAD SAVED MOROCCO FROM AN

ECOLOGICAL DISASTER. AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT,
THE GOM WAS NOW "INCLINED" TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ACCESSIONS
TO BOTH THE 1969 AMENDMENTS AND THE 1973 CONVENTION, DESPITE
THE INADEQUACIES OF THESE TREATIES IN GOM'S EYES. HE
REMARKED THAT THE GOM IN THE PAST HAD WITHHELD SIGNING
THESE TREATIES IN PART TO MAINTAIN LEVERAGE ON INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLLUTION CONTROL, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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